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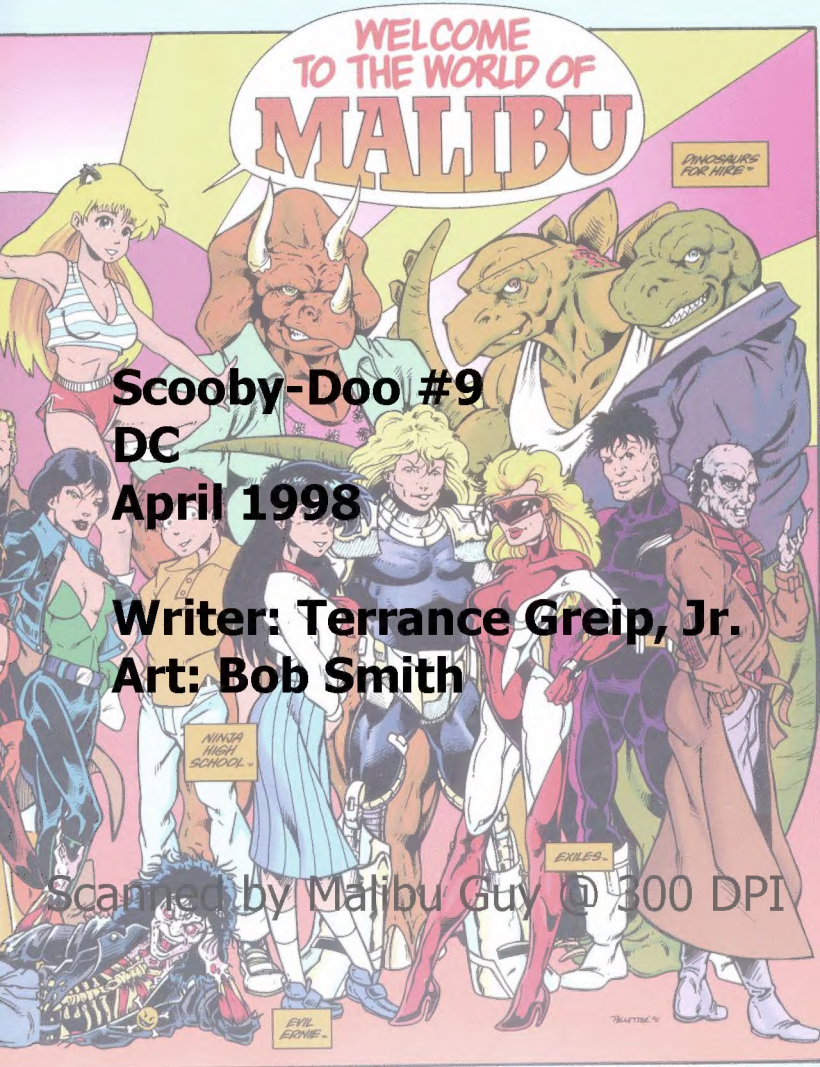
"YEESH, I GOTTA FUR WEDGIE!"



Scooby-Doo #9
DC
April 1998

Writer: Terrance Greip, Jr.
Art: Bob Smith

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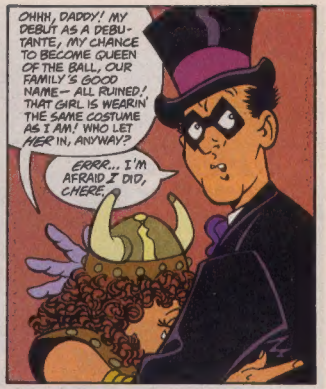
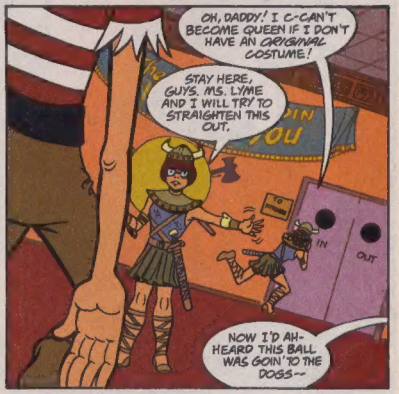
WHAT'RE YOU... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN THAT-THAT... IN MY COSTUME?!
Y-Y-YOUR WHAT?


OHHH, DADDY! MY DEBUT AS A DEBUTANTE, MY CHANCE TO BECOME QUEEN OF THE BALL, OUR FAMILY'S GOOD NAME-- ALL RUINED! THAT GIRL IS WEARIN' THE SAME COSTUME AS I AM! WHO LET HER IN, ANYWAY?
ERRR... I'M AFRAID I DID, CHERE.

SHE AND HER FRIENDS PERFORMED SOME MYSTERY-SOLVING SERVICES FOR ME, AND I INVITED THEM HERE TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SHE'D BE WEARING THE SAME COSTUME AS YOU!
YOU--?


OH, DADDY! I C-CAN'T BECOME QUEEN IF I DON'T HAVE AN ORIGINAL COSTUME!
STAY HERE, GUYS. MS. LYME AND I WILL TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT.
IN
OUT
NOW I'D AH-HEARD THIS BALL WAS GOIN' TO THE DOGS--

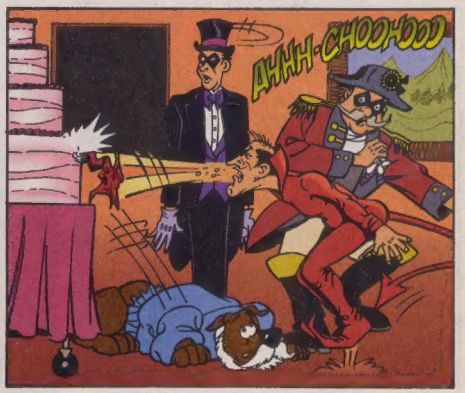
--BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT COMMENT WAS MEANT SO LITERAL-LIKE.
ANTON DUCHAMPE! AND HIS DAUGHTER, MARIE!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR DAUGHTER CAME TO THE BALL AS A VALKYRIE. WHERE IS GABIE? DID SHE DECIDE TO SPARE HERSELF THE HUMILIATION OF LOSING TO MY FOXY MARIE FOR THE TITLE OF QUEEN?
TEE-HEE-HEE!

YOU WOULD USE OUR DAUGHTERS TO GET BACK AT ME... ALL BECAUSE MY CANNERY OUTBID YOURS FOR THE WISH FISHERY ACCOUNT!
NOW HOLD UP THERE, GENTLEMEN!

AS CAPTAIN OF THE BALL, IT'S MY DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE DIGNITY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS! I UNDERSTAND THE HARD FEELINGS BETWEEN YOU TWO--
:SNF!: :SNF!: AH...

--BUT IF YOU CAN'T GOVERN YOURSELVES, I'LL JUST...
..I'LL JUST HAVE TO...
AH!
AHH!
WH-WHAT--?
AHHH...!


AHHH-CHOOHOOO

UH, S-SORRY 'BOUT THAT, CAP'N. :SNF!: I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALLERGIC TO MAGNOLIAS, LIKE THAT ONE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MR DUCHAMPE.

INSTEAD, MR. LYME AND YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT GETTING YOURSELVES AND YOUR DAUGHTERS TO THE CAPTAIN'S ROOM TO PREPARE FOR THE GRAND MARCH, WHERE THE NEW QUEEN WILL BE CROWNED.

THE CORONATION WILL TAKE PLACE. DESPITE THESE AFFRONTS. OUR KREWE, THE SONS OF ODIN, MUST HAVE ITS QUEEN!
EVERYONE'S SEEN OUR PRIDE AND JOY, THE LARGEST KING CAKE OF ANY KREWE. LET'S KEEP IT IN THE KITCHEN UNTIL AFTER THE CORONATION... TO PREVENT ANYTHING ELSE FROM HAPPENING TO IT.
OH, SCOO-HOO-HOOOB! THERE GOES THAT BEAUTIFUL CAKE!
ROH, RHE RUMANITY!
YOU KNOW, YOUNGSTERS, THE KING CAKE IS AN IMPORTANT TRADITION. INSIDE ONE PIECE IS A PLASTIC BABY--
--AND WHOEVER FINDS IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HOSTING NEXT YEAR'S KREWE BALL.
HUH. I MUST BE SQUARE: I THOUGHT CAKES WERE FOR EATING!
AWEE,HEEHEE HEE!
I KEEP HEARING THE TERM, "KREWE." WHAT'S THAT MEAN, ANYWAY?
WHY, THE KREWES ARE THE MASKING AND PARADING CLUBS THAT HAVE, OVER THE YEARS, MADE MARDI GRAS IN NEW ORLEANS!
I COULDN'T FIND MS. LYME ANYWHERE. I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT?
POOOFSHSH
IT'S NOT A MYSTERY. REPEAT AFTER ME: "IT'S NOT A MYSTERY."
RIT'S NOT A RISTERY. RIT'S...

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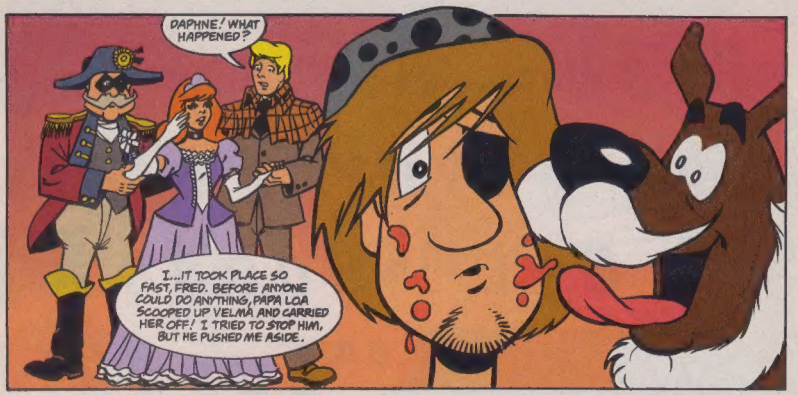
AD•MIND MELD

TO KITCHEN
BE WARNED! YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED AGAINST BARON SAMEDI! ON HIS TERRIBLE BEHALF I, PAPA LOA, MASTER OF GRIS-GRIS, DEMAND RECOMPENSE!
WHO'S THAT?
YOU! BEARER OF FALSE VESTMENTS, YOU SHALL BE TAKEN TO APPEASE THE GRAVEYARD GOD! YOUR POWDERED BONES SHALL SUCCOR THE WOUNDS OF GUEDE!
J-JINKIES!
1
2
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH US FIRST, PAPA BLOW-HARD!
KRSHINGSH
HEY!
BSAH!
SMELL THE ACRID SMELL OF RED BRICK DUST! TASTE THE BITTER TASTE OF JOHN-THE-CONQUEROR ROOT!
C-C'MON, GUYS, WE'VE GOT TO-TO--
LIKE, THAT SPOOK, HE'S--
RTL-RTL
TO WORK
IN
RE'S ROME!
TOTALLY BACK TO WENTZ-VILLE!


DAPHNE! WHAT HAPPENED?
I...IT TOOK PLACE SO FAST, FRED. BEFORE ANYONE COULD DO ANYTHING, PAPA LOA SCOOPED UP VELMA AND CARRIED HER OFF! I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE PUSHED ME ASIDE.

THEN THERE WAS A PUFF OF SMOKE, AND THEY WERE BOTH JUST... GONE!

WELL, GANG...
...LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT ANOTHER MYSTERY ON OUR HANDS.
HERE WE GO AGAIN!

THIS IS SERIOUS, SHAGGY. VELMA'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE WE SHOULD START OUR INVESTI-GATION.

WHILE WE DO THAT, CAPTAIN, COULD YOU ASSEMBLE THE CANDIDATES FOR QUEEN?
OF COURSE! ANYTHING TO RESTORE THE HONOR OF OUR KREWE!

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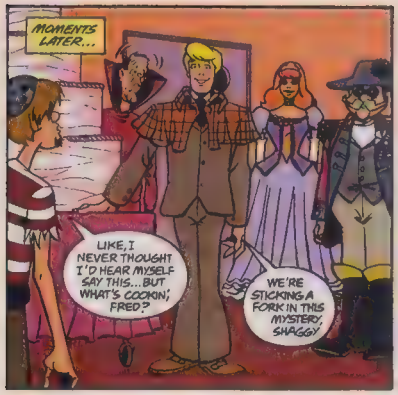
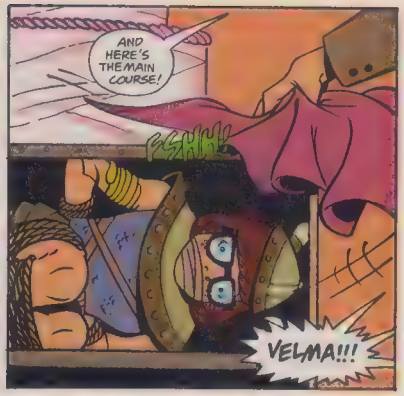
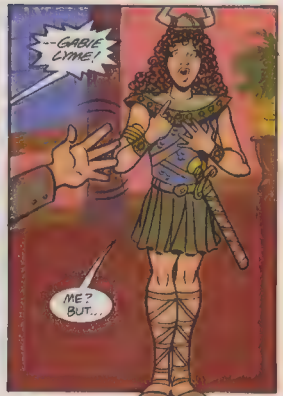
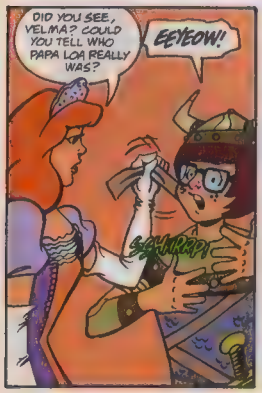
SOON, IN THE BALLROOM'S FOYER.
SO YOU'RE SURE THAT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY INTO OR OUT OF THE BALL-ROOM?
LAFITTE BALLROOM
LOOK, I DUNNO HOW MANY TIMES WE GOTTA GO OVER IT--
--DIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE EVENT, RIGHT?
INDEED. THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING ACCESS POINTS HAS BEEN MADE ESPECIALLY TO KEEP OUT THE RABBLE
MM-HM. AND YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY, UH, VOODOO PRIESTS LEAVE IN THE PAST FEW MINUTES?
UH..
PLEASE ALLOW US A MOMENT TO RECOLLECT FULLY.
DERE WUZ A MEDICINE MAN...
A SHAMAN, I T'INK...
TWO WITCH DOCTORS...
THREE NECROMANCERS...
ONE SNAKE CHARMER...
BUT NARY A SINGLE VOODOO PRIEST.
YOU'RE CERTAIN?
POSITIVE!
AB-SO-LUTELY!
OKAY, SANG. I KNOW WHERE TO FIND VELMA.
HUH?!


MOMENTS LATER...
LIKE, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR MYSELF SAY THIS... BUT WHAT'S COOKIN', FRED?
WE'RE STICKING A FORK IN THIS MYSTERY, SHAGGY!


AND HERE'S THE MAIN COURSE!
PSHH!
VELMA!!!

GREAT GALLOPING! BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW, YOUNG MAN?
WELL, SIR NONE OF THE SONS OF ODIN EXPECTED US, SO THERE WAS NO MOTIVE TO KIDNAP VELMA. BUT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE DRESSED LIKE VELMA WHO WAS EXPECTED--


--GABBIE LYNNE!
ME? BUT..


DID YOU SEE, VELMA? COULD YOU TELL WHO PAPA LOA REALLY WAS?
EEYEOW!
SKWIRP!

YES! WHILE STRUGGLING WITH HIM, I KNOCKED HIS MASK AWAY! IT WAS...

ANTON DUCHAMPE!
OOOOOO!

YOU PLANNED ON KIDNAPPING GABIE BEFORE THE CORONATION CEREMONY, KNOWING THAT IT WOULD GO ON, NO MATTER WHO WAS MISSING.
LEGGO! AH SAY, YOU'RE STRETCHIN' THE MATERIAL, SON!
YOU HID THE GIRL YOU THOUGHT WAS GABIE LYME WITH THE KING CAKE, KNOWING SHE'D BE FOUND RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY— WHEN IT WOULD BE TOO LATE!
SINCE YOU KIDS ARE SO SMART, YOU MUST KNOW THAT I "DISAPPEARED" UNDER COVER OF THESE SMOKE BOMBS!
SHRRRP
LIKE, EVEN I'M HEP TO THAT GOLDEN OLDIE, POPS!
WELL, THEN! ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE MY TECHNIQUE TO Y'ALL!
WHERE DID HE... WHERE...?
HEY, KID!
POOFSHSH!
I DONE SEEN MY FIRST VOODOO PRIEST O' TH' NIGHT! HE WENT THET-A-WAY! TOWARD TH' GARDEN DISTRICT!
:KE!. KE!. KE!:
QUICK, GANG! FOLLOW THAT SOCIALLY AMBITIOUS ARISTOCRAT!

THERE HE GOES!
THROW ME SOMETHING, MISTUH!
OVER HERE!
NO, HERE
THROW ME SOME-THIN', MISTUH!
AM I WRONG, SCOOB, OR ARE WE RUNNING TOWARD THE VILLAIN AND AWAY FROM THE FOOD?
HMMM...
WE'VE GOT HIM NOW! HE CAN'T GET AROUND THAT FL...
WHA--? SOMEONE ON THAT FLOAT THREW THIS TO ME. I WONDER...
HEY, LOOKY! THEM TOURISTERS CAUGHT THE THROW!
JINKIES!
FLUMPA FLUMPA FLUMP!

ONE STAMPEDE AND A FORFEITED STRING OF BEADS LATER...
ACADIAN BALLROOM
HE'S DUCKING INTO THAT OTHER MASKED BALL! WE'VE GOT HIM NOW!
THERE WON'T BE ANYWHERE FOR HIM TO HIDE IN HERE.'
The Acadian Ballroom WELCOMES THE MYSTIC KREWE OF BLUE VOODOO
UH-OHH...
AH-HAH!
OVER THERE!
I THINK... I THINK I SEE...
LAY BACK, JACK. I DETECT THE PAPA LOA IN BACK!

COME ON, SCOOBY! THAT ROPE WILL LET DOWN THE BALLOONS AND FLOWERS FROM THE CEILING TO MARK THE END OF MARDI GRAS. BUT I SEE MR. DUCHAMPE RIGHT OVER THERE!
RARROONS... RAND ROWERS? :SNF!-SNF!:
HERE, IT'S...
OOPS!
HEY!
NO, HE'S...
EEP!
WHAT THE--?
NO, NO, THIS...
ERF!
WHY, I NEVER--!
NAH, YOU'RE ALL FROM NOWHERE. HE'S...
ZOINKS! LIKE, SORRY, DADDY-O!
MY LAWYER'S IN ATTENDANCE! I'LL... I'LL SUE!

SUFFERIN' SUCCOTASH!

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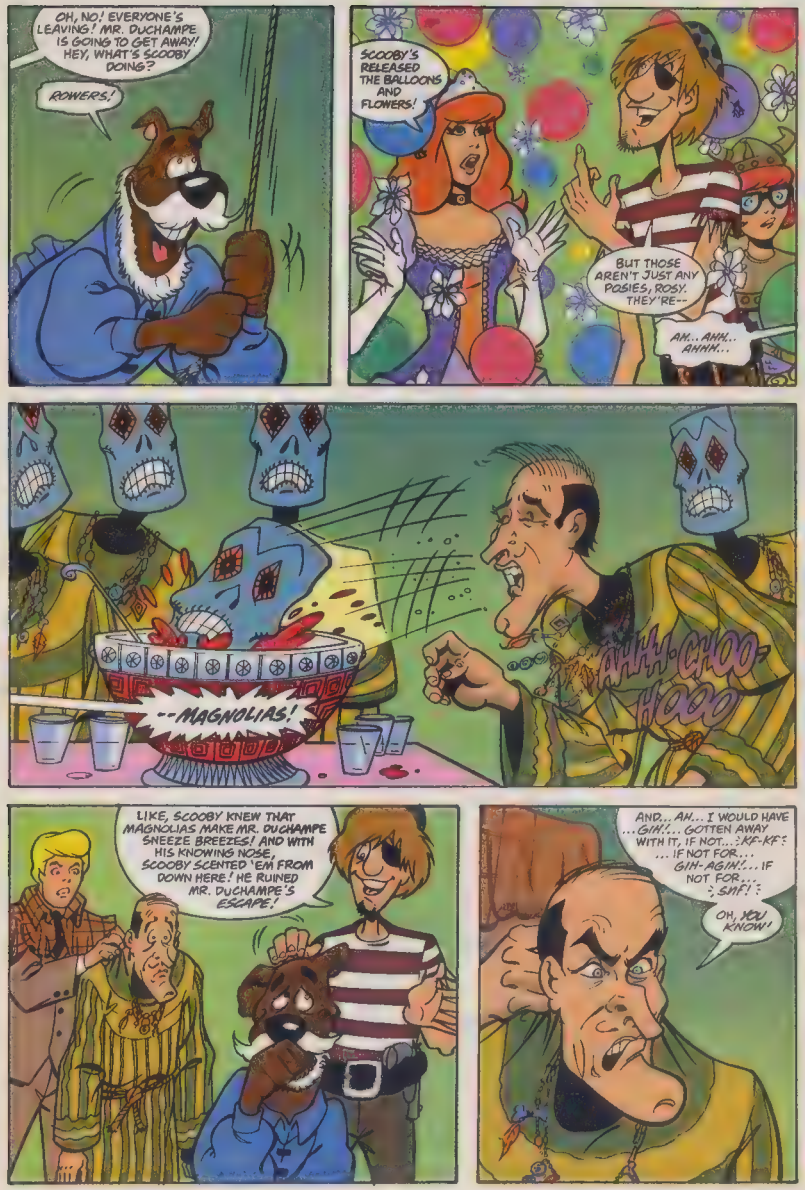
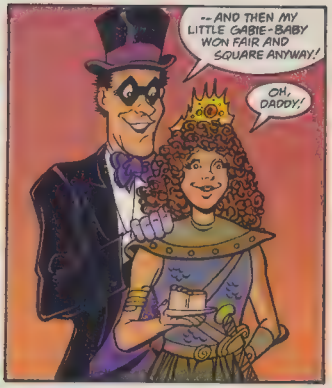
KRAFT Kids

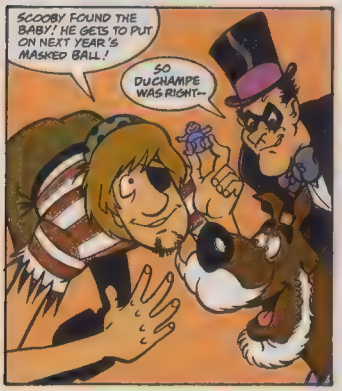

OH, NO! EVERYONE'S LEAVING! MR. DUCHAMPE IS GOING TO GET AWAY! HEY, WHAT'S SCOOBY DOING?
ROWERS!
SCOOBY'S RELEASED THE BALLOONS AND FLOWERS!
BUT THOSE AREN'T JUST ANY POSIES, ROSY. THEY'RE--
AH... AHH... AHHH...
--MAGNOLIAS!
AHH-CHOO-HOOO
LIKE, SCOOBY KNEW THAT MAGNOLIAS MAKE MR. DUCHAMPE SNEEZE BREEZES! AND WITH HIS KNOWING NOSE, SCOOBY SCENTED 'EM FROM DOWN HERE! HE RUINED MR. DUCHAMPE'S ESCAPE!
AND... AH... I WOULD HAVE ...GIH!... GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT, IF NOT.. :KF-KF: ... IF NOT FOR... GIH-AGIN!... IF NOT FOR... :SNF!:
OH, YOU KNOW!

... AND THEN THE AUTHORITIES TOOK MR. DUCHAMPE AWAY--
--AND CHARGED HIM WITH KIDNAPPING VELMA.
LATER, BACK AT THE TWELFTH NIGHT BALL-ROOM...
ALL THAT JUST SO HIS DAUGHTER COULD BE QUEEN OF THE BALL--


-- AND THEN MY LITTLE GABIE-BABY WON FAIR AND SQUARE ANYWAY!
OH, DADDY!

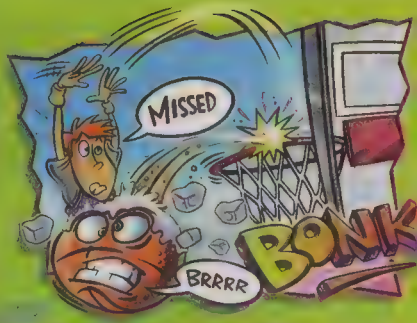
WELL, MYSTERY, INC., YOU'VE HELPED ME AGAIN AND NOW, AS FATHER OF THE RIGHTFUL QUEEN, I SAY--IT'S TIME TO EAT THE KING CAKE!
REPAST AT LAST!

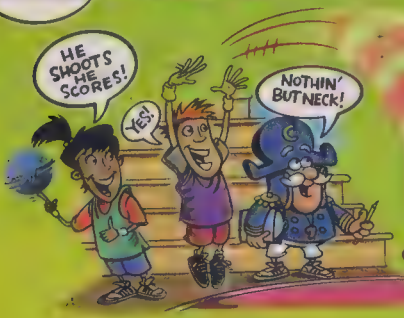
HEY, LOOK!
HRUNGH


SCOOBY FOUND THE BABY! HE GETS TO PUT ON NEXT YEAR'S MASKED BALL!
SO DUCHAMPE WAS RIGHT--

--THIS BALL REALLY WAS GONE TO THE DOGS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
THE END

MY HOT SHOT HAD GONE COLD. THEN THE CAPN AND SOME CRUNCHBERRIES GAVE ME A HAND!!





You and the Capn Make it Happen!

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JULY
WELL, SCOOB OLD PAL, THIS IS IT
I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D END LIKE THIS...
>GULP< RINISHED!
YUP, WE FINISHED ALL THE CHEESE DIP IN VELMA'S HOUSE! WE'RE, LIKE, EATING >MUNCH< RAW CRACKERS HERE!
THIS IS THE MOST STRESSFUL DAY OF OUR VACATION YET!
>SIGH<
GUYS! COME QUICK!
YIKES! THAT'S VELMA!
R H-OH!
SPLOOSH!
ZOINKS! SOME GHOUL-Y THING'S GOT HER!
FASCINATING
RELMA!
SCOOBY-DOO IN COSTUME CAPER!
STORY: CHRIS DUFFY ART/LETTERS: TIM HARKINS
COLORS: TRISHA MULVIHILL EDITS: BRONWYN TAGGART

LIKE, HANG ON, V.! WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS!
NO, SHAGGY! WAIT!
GRRRRRROLF!
OWCH!
ROOOPS!
OOOOF!
I TRIED TO TELL YOU. IT'S A COSTUME FROM ONE OF OUR OLD CASES!
LIKE, I THOUGHT THAT FACE LOOKED FAMILIAR. SO WHAT GIVES WITH THE THROAT EXAM?
???
WITH FRED AND VELMA AWAY, I'VE BEEN MAKING AN INVENTORY OF MYSTERY INC.'S MEMENTOS.
AND WHILE I WAS CLEANING THIS COSTUME, I FOUND THIS LABEL INSIDE.
SO THE CROOK FROM THAT CASE HAD A DESIGNER LIZARD SUIT—SO WHAT?
"SO WHAT" INDEED! TO ANSWER THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO VISIT--
KLIK!

--THE MYSTERY MUSEUM!
MYSTERY INC.'S OWN BRAND-NEW HALL OF HISTORY. YOURS TRULY, VELMA DINKLEY, SOLE PROPRIETOR AND ARCHIVIST.
LOOK AT ALL THIS GROOVY STUFF FROM OUR OLD MYSTERIES!
COME ON! LOOK FOR LABELS INSIDE OTHER COSTUMES!
LIKE, WEIRD AS IT IS, SCOOB, I GUESS WE SHOULD.
ROKAY!
AND SO
FOURTEEN OTHER COSTUMES WITH THE SAME LABEL--
--INDICATING A COMMON POINT OF ORIGIN! SOME EVIL COSTUMER HAS BEEN SUPPLYING CRIMINALS WITH THE MEANS TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE--
--AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHO IT IS!
>GULP!<

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CARTOON NETWORK

Lunchables
Make Fun of Lunch.

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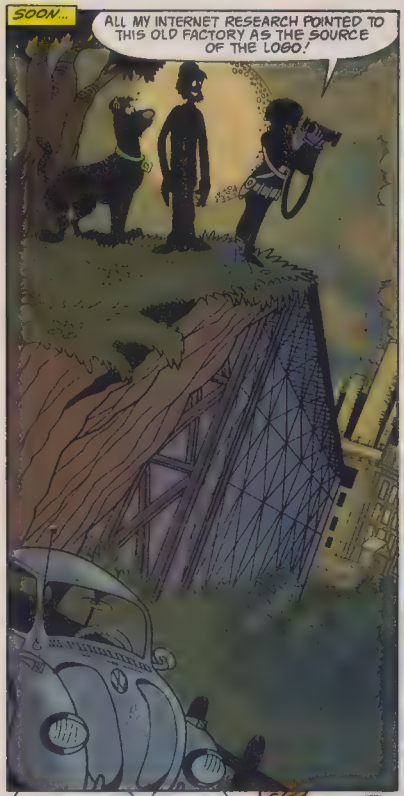
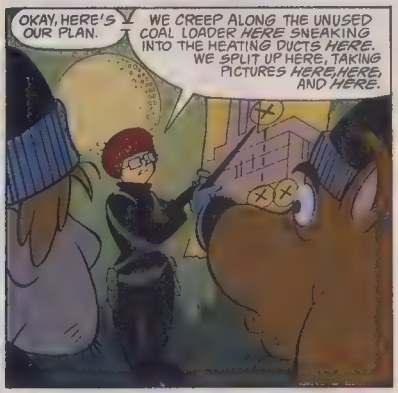

SOON...
ALL MY INTERNET RESEARCH POINTED TO THIS OLD FACTORY AS THE SOURCE OF THE LOGO!

HORNE
COSTUM
INC.
BINGO!


OKAY, HERE'S OUR PLAN.
WE CREEP ALONG THE UNUSED COAL LOADER HERE SNEAKING INTO THE HEATING DUCTS HERE. WE SPLIT UP HERE, TAKING PICTURES HERE, HERE, AND HERE.

THEN WE MEET BACK HERE. READY?
STEALTH GEAR ON!

???
FOLLOW ME!

YIKES!

TAKE IT EASY, SCOOB! YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!
RONSTER! RONSTER!
LIKE, LOOK OUT, VELMA! I CAN'T STOP!
JINKIES!
YEEEEEEOOOO
KA-PLOOOM!
TRASH
I THINK WE MAY HAVE BLOWN OUR COVER.
I'D SAY WE'D BETTER BLOW THIS PLACE!
LOOK!
ARRRRR...
ARRRRR...

...ARRRRRRE YOU YOUNGSTERS ALL RIGHT?
WE'RE OKAY, MA'AM. UM, I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING YOUR COSTUME...
DO YOU LIKE IT? IT'S MY LATEST!
YOU MADE IT?
WHY, CERTAINLY. I MAKE ALL THE COSTUMES. I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
STORAGE
I THINK A LITTLE TOUR WILL HELP EXPLAIN. YOU NEED TO VISIT--
--THE HORNE COSTUME COMPANY'S FACTORY SHOWROOM!
YOURS TRULY, HARRIET HORNE, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.
JINKIES.
EXIT

YEARS AGO, MY FAMILY RAN A THRIVING COSTUME FACTORY HERE. THEY'RE ALL GONE NOW.
I KEEP UP THE PLACE AS BEST I CAN. BUT THE ONLY BUSINESS COMES FROM SPECIAL ORDERS THAT TRICKLE IN BY MAIL.
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THESE PROTOTYPES, THE ORDERS ARE A BIT... OFFBEAT, BUT I'M QUITE PROUD OF THEM.
LIKE, VELMA, THESE ARE ALL OUTFITS WORN BY VILLAINS WE'VE PUT IN JAIL. SHE'S A ONE-WOMAN GHOUL MAKER.
BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW THAT.
..THE SPECIAL ELECTRICAL EFFECTS ON THIS ONE...
THE CRIMINALS WE TRACK DOWN ARE THIS NICE OLD LADY'S LIVELIHOOD.
WE SHOULD REALLY STOP HER BUT--
...OH AND THE SPOT WELDING ON THIS ONE WAS A DOOZY!
BUT, LIKE, THEN THIS NICE OLD LADY WOULDN'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS!
WE'RE STUCK!
WAIT! WE CAN'T STOP HER FROM MAKING THE COSTUMES, BUT MAYBE WE DON'T HAVE TO!
MAILING LIST
MA'AM, CAN WE GET ON YOUR MAILING LIST?

THREE MONTHS LATER...
OST OFFICE
HARDWARE
I GOT IT! THE CATALOGUE'S HERE!
THE HORNE COMPANY'S COSTUME CATALOG WILL TELL US IF A GHOST IS REAL OR JUST A FRAUD IN A COSTUME!
THAT'LL MAKE LIFE PRETTY EASY.
REAH!
WAIT. THERE'S A NOTE.
"DEAR KIDS, YOUR VISIT INSPIRED ME IN MORE WAYS THAN YOU COULD KNOW. I'VE STARTED A NEW LINE OF HUMOROUS COSTUMES THAT HAVE BECOME A HUGE SUCCESS."
"NO MORE TIME FOR THOSE SPECIAL ORDERS. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! SIGNED, HARRIET H. HORNE."
WELL, SO MUCH FOR MY PLAN!
HEY, CHECK THIS OUT!
HORNE COSTUME COMPANY
HALLOWEEN
BIG BOWSER
BEATNIK BOY
BRAINY BERTHA
WOW, YOU THREE REALLY DID INSPIRE THAT NICE OLD LADY!
JINKIES!
END!

SCOOBY'S MYSTERY MAIL

Scooby-Dooby-Doo, Where are you? *We need some help answering* ***all*** *the letters we've been getting! Here are just a few (not including four more this month from our pal Nick Wagoner of Shawnee Mission, Kansas):*

Kayla Matt
Lee Center, NY

Dear Scooby,

I think you're cool. I watch your show a lot. I have a picture for you too! It's on this letter. It's a picture of you looking at a submarine.

P.S. I don't draw too well. Sorry!

ILLUSTRATION BY KAYLA MATT

Don't worry, Kayla, we think you draw just fine! It was very nice of you to send a picture to Scooby, and we'll show it to him the next time we see him. We hope it won't make him too hungry!

While we're at it, Mr. Jay Kogan, DC's Director of Legal Affairs, would like us to be sure to tell everyone that if readers send us drawings we might print them (you knew that, right?), but unfortunately we won't be able to send them back to you or anything.

▼

Chris Binns
Hackettstown, NJ

Dear Scooby,

How many relatives do you have?

Chris, your letter was short, but your question took a ***long*** *time to answer. Even Scooby himself isn't quite sure how many relatives he has. First of course is his nephew, Scrappy-Doo. Then there are Scooby's cousins, Scooby-Dum and Scooby-Dee. Scrappy-Doo has a cousin called Yabba-Doo, but Scooby thinks Yabba is also* ***his*** *cousin, so that's confusing but apparently Scooby and Yabba are related somehow. Naturally Scooby mentioned Mommy-Doo and Daddy-Doo, as well as Dooby-Dooby, Dixie-Doo, and Rooby, Howdy, and Skilly. We think he may have been pulling our leg about some of those, but that's what he said, so the official answer is -* ***eleven.***

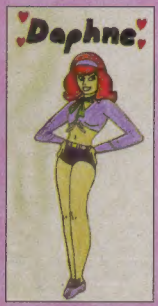
▼

Brian W. Davidson
Somerville, MA

Dear Editor,

I'm 31 years old and I'm a veteran fan of Scooby. I enjoyed reading the last five issues of DC's *Scooby-Doo* comic. My favorite character in *Scooby-Doo* is Daphne. I love Daphne very much. Do Daphne and Fred have a special love between the two of them? I enclose a picture of Daphne in a new outfit. I would love to see Daphne in this outfit in later issues of *Scooby-Doo*. Anyway, keep up the good work. Thank you!

Gee, Brian, why does ***everyone*** *ask that question? Well, it's always been our impression that the relationship between Fred and Daphne is friendly but very professional. Surely Daphne would never let* ***anything*** *get in the way of her dedication to solving mysteries. That's also why she probably won't ever wear the groovalicious outfit you've designed for her — it might distract Fred and Shaggy when they're hunting for clues.*



LETTER OF THE MONTH:

From Cody Winn, Cedar City, Utah.

To answer your question, Cody, Shaggy and Scooby are partners in Mystery, Inc., but they're obviously best friends as well.

NEXT ISSUE:

The gang makes a special guest appearance at SleuthCon '98, where fans compete to become the *sixth* member of Mystery, Inc. But when a *real* mystery breaks out at the con, Fred, Daphne, Shaggy, Velma, and Scooby show the fans that it takes a lot more than an encyclopedic knowledge of old cartoons to unmask the culprit. In the backup feature, Shaggy and Scooby search the Canadian wilderness for the elusive Bigfoot, a tall, hairy, disheveled humanlike creature with bad posture and a fondness for pizza — Hey!

This month's cover *was drawn by the mighty Joe Staton, who will soon be drawing more Scooby stories — yay! It was colored by Trisha Mulvihill, who colors* ***all*** *our Scooby Stuff — lucky us!*

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VP-Managing Editor
JOEL EHRLICH
Senior VP-Advertising & Promotions
LILLIAN LASERSON
VP & General Counsel
BOB ROZAKIS
Executive Director-Production

MARDI GRAS

FAT TUESDAY?

Yep, that's what **Mardi Gras** means. It's pronounced "MAR - dee GRAH" and it's French. But what does it *mean*? To explain it, we have to start with Easter. **Easter** is a Christian religious holiday that's celebrated every year on a Sunday sometime between March 22 and April 25. The period of time for six and a half weeks before Easter is called **Lent**. Lent is a season when many Christians pray and go without certain foods (called *fasting*); Lent always begins on a Wednesday. **Mardi Gras** is a happy celebration that's held every year on the **Tuesday** before Lent begins. (Whew!) Although the date that Mardi Gras is celebrated depends on the date that Easter is observed each year, Mardi Gras is not a religious holiday. In fact, the Mardi Gras celebration goes back to a custom from ancient Roman times, when people would hold parties and have fun before starting a period of fasting.

Mardi Gras is a legal holiday in just two states in the United States: Florida and Alabama. There are big Mardi Gras celebrations in Mobile, Alabama and also in Biloxi, Mississippi. But the most famous Mardi Gras celebration is held in **New Orleans, Louisiana**—so that's where Scooby-Doo and the Mystery, Inc. gang went for their Mardi Gras adventure.

Mardi Gras in New Orleans is a blast! Every year almost one million people show up from all over the world to watch the parades and go to the costume parties and eat some of the *best* food there is. (Just ask Shaggy—*he* knows.) The parties start about two weeks before Fat Tuesday, and there are lots of parades, too. Private social groups called **krewes** organize the events and raise the money to pay for them.

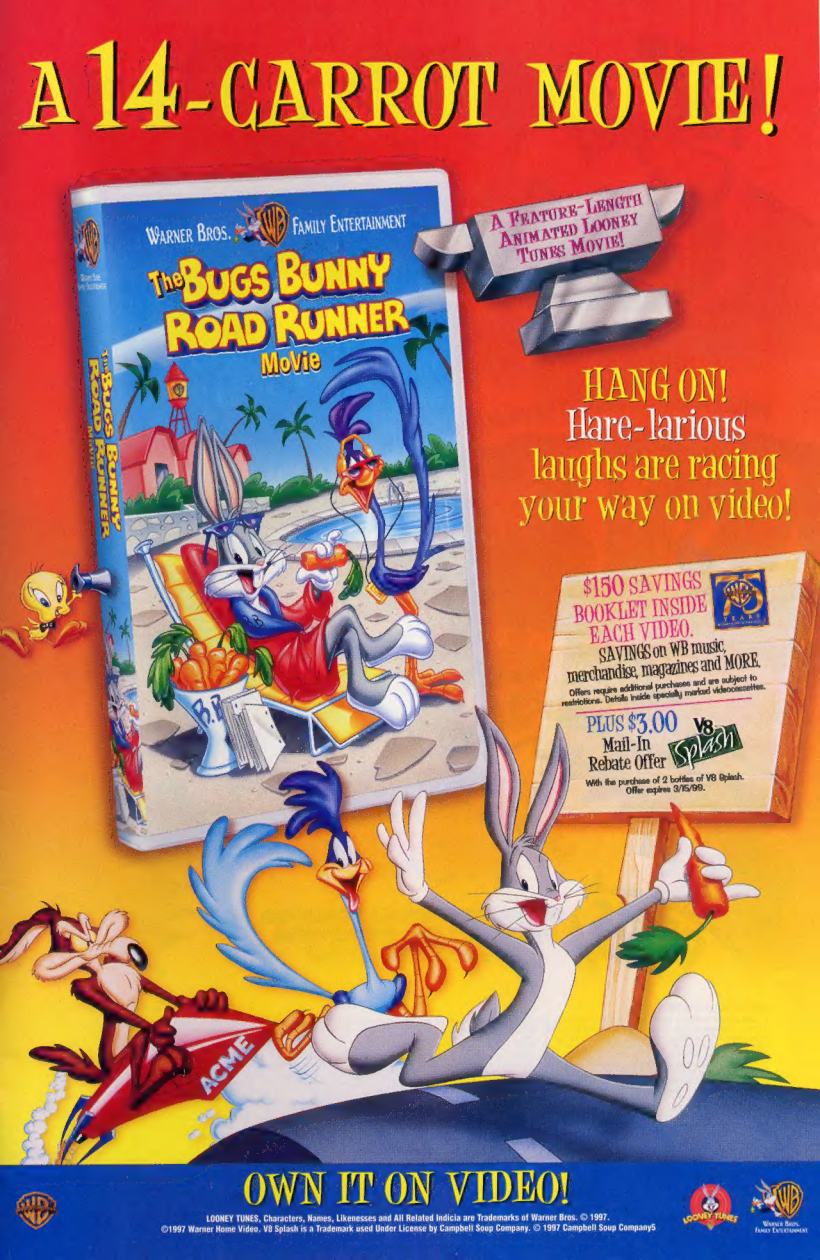
Krewe members choose a new king, queen, and royal court every year. The names of the people they choose is kept a secret until the krewe holds its special costume ball. **It's a big honor to be chosen for a krewe's royal court,** but it's also a big expense because people have to pay for their own costumes and crowns and special parties. Some people save money all year just to be able to afford the honor of being elected to the royalty of their krewe. In the Mardi Gras story in this issue, Gabie Lyme is counting on being named Queen of the Odin Krewe.

Each krewe also sponsors its own parades where its members show off their fine masks and fancy costumes. Then, on Mardi Gras Day, the king of the Rex Krewe leads a *huge* parade of marching bands and hundreds of floats. People who come to watch the parade call out "Throw me something, Mister!" and the krewe members do just that. Riders on the floats toss beads, toys, and gold coins called *doubloons* (but not real ones!) to all the people.

Mardi Gras has been celebrated in New Orleans since 1857—but why? Most cities in the United States don't have Fat Tuesday parades. The reason is that the city of New Orleans was founded by French colonists in 1718 after the entire Mississippi River valley was claimed for France by the explorer LaSalle in 1682. (La Salle ignored the fact that plenty of people lived in the valley already. Chicasaw, Choctaw, and Natchez indians had been living there for about 10,000 years before any Frenchmen ever saw the place.)

The main thing the French settlers brought from France were their customs. Even in the muddy little settlement of New Orleans they held balls, parties, and banquets, and they celebrated Fat Tuesday just as they had back home. **And it's a good thing, too, or else we wouldn't have Mardi Gras in New Orleans today!**

A 14-CARROT MOVIE!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